

Hunterdon County's pre-disaster economy was healthy and its unemployment rate was significantly less than the New Jersey State average. Damage in Hunterdon County was minimal and damage estimates were less than \$100,000. Hunterdon County is not expected to experience short- or long-term effects from Hurricane Floyd.

9.1 Pre-Disaster Conditions

Hunterdon County's pre-disaster economy can be characterized as healthy, based upon available employment and income data. Average 1998 unemployment for the county was 2.2 percent, which is significantly less than the State's 4.6 percent figure. The 1997 per capita income for Hunterdon County was \$39,830.

Hunterdon County's primary industries are in the service sector, based on the number of employed individuals (see Table 9-1). Thirty-one percent of county residents are employed in the service sector. Manufacturing and retail trade account for 23 percent and 22 percent,

Table 9-1 Primary Industries in Hunterdon County (1996)

Sector	Number of Establishments	Number Employed
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	126	< 500
Mining	2	< 20
Construction	584	3,166
Manufacturing	186	8,590
Transportation & Public Utilities	130	1,430
Wholesale Trade	234	2,054
Retail Trade	807	7,996
FIRE	213	1,619
Services	1,282	11,280
Unclassified	9	< 20
Total	3,573	36,620

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

respectively. From 1996 to 2006, employment in the service and wholesale trade sectors is expected to increase substantially at annual rates of 2.8 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively. Employment is not expected to decline in any sectors.

9.2 Post-Disaster Conditions

Hunterdon County's EMC reported minimal damage to Hunterdon County businesses. Two businesses received major damage, 1 business received minor damage, and 10 businesses were affected. Damage was estimated at \$74,000. According to an interview with Hunterdon County's EMC, overall damages (residential, business, and governmental) were greatest in Flemington and Lambertville, but business losses likely only occurred in the former.

Only 49 businesses teleregistered with FEMA as of November 1, 1999. As of January 13, 2000, three businesses in Hunterdon County were approved for physical loans with SBA. The total value of these loans was \$119,000. The SBA approved one business economic injury loan for \$14,000.

9.3 Conclusions

Hunterdon County's primary economic sectors are service, manufacturing, and retail trade, which account for 76 percent of the county's base. The county's average 1998 unemployment, 2.2 percent, was substantially lower than the State's figure, and county per capita income in 1997 was \$39,830. Generally, the county's economy is one of the healthiest in the State.

Damage in Hunterdon County was minimal: only 13 businesses reported being affected, and damage was estimated at less than \$100,000. Hunterdon County should not experience significant short- or long-term economic effects from Hurricane Floyd. Municipalities in Hunterdon County should consider implementing appropriate recommendations described in Section 3.4.